

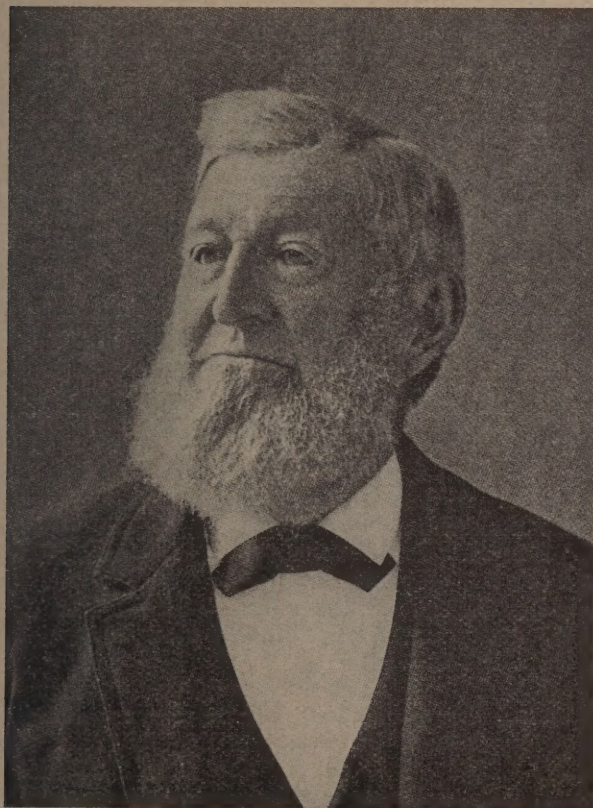
V. I. A. ANNUAL

DEVOTED TO VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT AND TOWN BETTERMENT

VOL. XXII

TYNGSBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER, 1916



JOHN PARHAM.

THE TOWN'S OLDEST FAMILIES.

THE PARHAMS.

Maude A. Queen.

John Parham, whose portrait is here given, was of the seventh generation in direct descent from John Parham, who is supposed to have come to America from Coventry, England, and settled in Rehoboth, Mass.

He brought two sons with him, John and Abraham; the latter died before 1675, and the former removed to Chelmsford in 1666. In Fisk's Diary, July 13, 1673, is the record of the baptism of the children of John and Lydia (Shipley ?) Parham, in Chelmsford. Mary, John, Joseph, born about 1670, and Anna. Joseph married Dorothy Kidder and had

eleven children: Joseph, James, Dorothy, Hannah, Lydia, Jonathan, Abigail, Betsey, Rachel, Susannah and John.

The first six were born in Chelmsford. About 1711, Joseph and his family removed to Tyngsboro, and tradition says that John, their last child, was the first white child born in Tyngsboro, on the east side of the Merrimack River.

Jonathan married Judith Wyman and they had four children: Jonathan, William, Hannah and Elizabeth.

William enlisted with the Dracut volunteers, and the muster roll shows that Dracut officers and men saw service at Lexington, Bunker Hill, at the surrender of General Burgoyne, on the reinforcement of the Northern Army and in the Rhode Island Campaign.

It has been handed down in the family, that William Parham was in the front ranks at the surrender of Gen. Burgoyne, at Saratoga, October 14, 1777.

After the surrender, when the army was mustered out, there was no money to pay the soldiers for their services, and they were obliged to get home from White Plains, N. Y., as best they could. Many walked, getting rides along the way when they could, and begging for food and lodging. Their shoes were so worn that they had to bind rags around their feet to protect them from the frozen ground and snow, which would often be stained with their blood.

After arriving home, William Parham was sick and not able to do much work all that winter.

In 1787 he married Ruth Merrill of Nottingham West, and they had five children: Betsey, William, Ruth, Sally and Sargent.

William was also a soldier, serving in the War of 1812, and receiving a pension during the latter part of his life. He married Sarah Parham and they had eight children: William, Sarah, John, Joseph, David, Nathaniel, Alicia and Daniel.

He built the present brick house in 1831 from bricks made on the place, and lived in it until his death, in 1880, in his ninety-first year.

Of their children William died in childhood, Sarah, who was the wife of Samuel Gowan of Hudson, N. H., died at the age of seventy-seven; Joseph died at the age of twenty; David, unmarried, died at an advanced age; Nathaniel died at the age of nineteen; Daniel married Maria Burnham of Pelham, N. H., and died in 1892.

John, the subject of this sketch, married Abby Damon of Amherst, N. H., October 23, 1851, and they had three children: William, born in 1854; Florence, born in 1858, and Dora, born in 1860. Mr. and Mrs. John Parham lived to celebrate their fiftieth wedding

anniversary at the old place and spent the remainder of their lives there.

Alicia Parham became the wife of Daniel S. Jordan of Lawrence, Mass., and is the only one of that generation still living, having celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday last May.

BANCROFT FAMILY.

J. F. Bancroft.

The Bancrofts, living in Tyngsboro, today, were descendents of Thomas (1), the immigrant, who according to the genealogists, was born in England 10, Feb. 1622. At what time he emigrated to America is unknown to the writer, as the earliest records of the family were destroyed in the "Great Fire at Lynn." He married first, Alice, dau. of Michael Bacon, of Dedham, who, with a son, Thomas, died in the following year. Later, he married Elizabeth, dau. of Michael and Sarah (Elwyn) Metcalf of St. Benedict, Norfolk Co., England. He lived in Reading and Lynnfield. They had eleven children, the tenth of whom, Ebenezer (2), born in Lynnfield, 1667, *m.* Abigail, dau. of John and Elizabeth Eaton of Reading. Their seventh child, Timothy, born 14 Dec. 1709, came to Tyngsboro about 1730, and *m.* Elizabeth, dau. of Henry and Susannah (Richardson) Farwell. He bought a farm of his father-in-law and settled where J. F. Bancroft now lives. He was commissioned Lieutenant in Col. Tyng's Company, 1754.

They had nine children. She died in 1754, and he then *m.* wid. Mary (Newhall) Mansfield, of Lynn, and had two children. His two elder sons, Ebenezer and Jonathan, settled in Tyngsboro, Ebenezer buying the farm adjoining that of his uncle, Jonathan Farwell, and Jonathan on the home farm. Ebenezer *m.* Susannah, dau. of Dea. Joseph Fletcher, of Dunstable, and they had seven children. At the age of sixteen years, he began his military career by enlisting in the Provincial Army, during the French and Indian War in 1755, under the famous partisan leaders Goff, Rogers, and Stark, and served one campaign on the Northern Frontier. In 1757 he was commissioned Ensign in Captain John Alford Tyng's Company. Later, he received a Lieutenant's commission in Captain Silas Brown's Company, serving through the whole five campaigns of that war.

At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War the military spirit again seized him. While in the Provincial Army he was obliged, as a commissioned officer, to take the oath of allegiance to Great Britain, "but when the news of the action at Lexington reached me, I hastened to the spot and the sight of my fellow citizens dead on the field fully absolved me from my oath; I overtook the British at West Cambridge, and made such use of my gun that it was said that I lessened their number." On the 19th of May, 1775, he received his commission as Captain and commanded the Dunstable Company at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He served in the Army during the entire war, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

In civil life he was Justice of the Peace, represented the town at the General Court, and served as Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectman, and on many very important committees in his own town. He died in 1827, in the 90th year of his age.

His son, Ebenezer, born 1778, *m.* Hannah Towne, of Milford, N. H. They had six children.

His son, Ebenezer, born 1807, *m.* Jane R. Kezar, of Portland, Me. They had five children.

His son, Ebenezer, born 1846, *m.* Carrie A. Nichols, of Nashua, N. H. They had three children.

Dea. Jonathan, son of Lieut. Timothy, and brother of Col. Ebenezer Bancroft, born 1750, *m.* Martha Green, of Groton, 1773. They had ten children. He was at Lexington and Concord as a Minuteman in 1775, and later in the service in the Northern New York Army. In 1781, he was commissioned Lieutenant in Col. Brown's Regiment.

His son, Maj. Jonathan, born 1774, *m.* 1797, Sarah Taylor, of Dracut. They had ten children. He was commissioned Major in the 4th N. H. Regiment, 1812. His two sons, Jonathan and Ephraim, settled in Tyngsboro. The former *m.* Eliza Jane, dau. of Jeremiah Kendall, of Tyngsboro, and lived on the homestead farm, where five children were born to them.

Jonathan Franklin, son of Jonathan, born 1847, *m.* Helen A. Kidder of Tyngsboro, in 1872. They had five children.

One son, Horace Timothy, *m.* Harriet A. Mather, and has two children.

Another son, Chester Frank Kidder, *m.* Lottie Mae, dau. of Henry H. Upton, of Tyngsboro, and has three children.

Ephraim *m.* Harriet Varnum, dau. of Maj. Jesse Coburn. They had four children. The eldest son, Gustavus, served three years in the 42nd N. Y. Regiment, during the War of the Rebellion. He *m.* Mary, dau. of Jasper Viall, of Burlington, Vt. They had one child.

Henry K. Bancroft, who has lately become a resident of Tyngsboro, is descended from the same Thomas (1) but through another line.

REV. JAMES DANFORTH.

N. S. Hoagland.

Since the last issue of this paper, Mr. Danforth has passed on. His relation to this Association merits special recognition, for it was largely through his initiative that it was started. This was during his pastorate of the First Church, 1884—1887. The streets were, for the most part, unlighted at night, and the sidewalks were poor. He gave out an invitation for all who were interested in doing something to improve these conditions to meet at his house at an appointed evening.

Only a few attended, but Channing Whitaker was one and he gave the proposition his cordial and intelligent co-operation. Others joined in. A few

lamps were placed and arrangements were made to maintain them. The lamps, regularly kept trimmed and burning, looked so good that the service was readily extended, and once they got started in the matter of Village Improvement they found there was really no decent way to stop it.

James Danforth, therefore, may be considered one of the founders. He would, with characteristic modesty, object to being called the Founder, but it gave him one of the fine satisfactions of his life to recall that he took the initiative. He not only took the initiative but for a period covering something like thirty years and to the very last of his life, he was a constant, consistent and kindly supporter and worker for its purposes and ideals.

His interest and loyalty in this relation is typical of his character and work in general.

He was also one of the group that took the initiative in the Town Bi-Centennial Anniversary Celebration, a few years since. He was one of the executive committee responsible for its widely recognized success. He seemed always to be in the service of the community, yet never upon a salary basis. It takes a man of high moral courage to do a disagreeable thing, even though it be from a sense of duty to the community. He did just that when, other means failing, he personally obtained evidence of the illegal selling of liquor in the town which led to closing up the disreputable and demoralizing business. For a man of his tastes and habits to do this shows he had the stuff of which heroes and martyrs are made.

Physically he was not large or rugged but in purity and staunchness of moral character he was a true son of his Puritan ancestry, and his firmness for what he held to be right made one think of Plymouth Rock.

He was fifteen when the Civil War broke out and he might have been allowed to go during the latter years of the struggle had he so wished, and his physical strength permitted. But he did hear and heed the call for teachers in the Southland when the war was over. He went to North Carolina and taught a colored school, in one of the country districts near Wilmington. It was a pleasant experience, the last year of his life, to visit there in some of the families whose members he had taught a generation ago, and we may believe he had a hearty welcome.

In 1883 and 1884 he attended the Divinity School in Meadville, Pa., but his father died before the course was completed and he had to return home.

In the same year, 1884, he married Carolena T. Danforth, and was called to the pastorate of the Unitarian Church here, where he was ordained, November 11th of the year named. He had no children of his own. But he practically brought up and helped educate three nephews, one of whom died in the Philippines. One is a teacher in the High School in Beverly, Mass., and the other holds an important industrial position in Youngstown, Ohio. It was here Mr. Danforth passed away, while on a visit, on March 5th last. He was thoroughly and disinterestedly identified with the various organizations of the town for community betterment. In the Church,

the Grange, the V. I. A., none were more faithful in attendance or more ready to take his part cheerfully or more loyal in maintaining the ideals for which they stand. That is much to say but it is none too much to say of James Danforth.

His was the clean, manly, helpful, kindly life and not only the town but all who knew him were made better by his presence. One cannot think of him as ever having done an unkind or crooked thing.

"Only a virtuous soul

Like seasoned timber never gives;

But though the whole earth turn to coal,
Then chiefly lives."

BRIEF RESUMÉ OF THE V. I. A.

It was in 1890, that the late Rev. James Danforth and Mr. Albert A. Flint fell to talking about the many inconveniences which hampered existence in the centre of the town, and from that talk came Mr. Danforth's invitation to a meeting which was held in his house on October 22nd of that year.

There were present at that meeting Mr. Danforth, Channing Whitaker, A. A. Flint, A. P. Hadley, Asa M. Swain, George O. Perham, Sumner Woodward, and Louville Curtis. Mr. Hadley was chairman, and Mr. Flint, secretary.

The matter of forming a Village Improvement Association was discussed and it was decided to sense the feeling of the villagers on the subject. Messrs. Whitaker, W. Blanchard and Swain were appointed a committee to draft a constitution.

It was voted to put in order what lamps there were in the village, and to engage Isiah Davis for a week to light them.

On November 5, 1890, a meeting was held at Mr. Hadley's, when it was voted to purchase sixteen lamps.

On December 22, 1890, the Village Improvement Association was fairly launched from the residence of George O. Perham with the following officers:

President, Louville Curtis; Vice-Presidents, Jesse B. Butterfield, and A. P. Hadley; Clerk, William Blanchard; Treasurer, James Danforth; Corresponding Secretary, Channing Whitaker; Executive Committee, Louville Curtis, A. A. Flint, D. A. Lawrence, Mrs. G. O. Perham, and Mrs. Joseph Bennett.

It was voted to ascertain the cost of a stone crusher with boiler and engine.

Following is a list of subsequent presidents:

1892—1893, L. Curtis; 1894—1895, Dr. G. A. Harlow; 1896 to 1903, Rev. James Danforth; 1904—1905, Jesse B. Butterfield; 1906, Rev. James Danforth; 1907, Dr. G. A. Harlow; 1908, Harry L. Littlehale; 1909, Reuben B. Sherburne; 1910, Duncan Campbell; 1911, Charles P. Littlehale; 1912, Dr. Fred D. Lambert; 1913, Frederick A. Coburn; 1914, Albert A. Flint; 1915, Arthur R. Marshall; 1916, George Robeson; 1917, Homer A. Noble.

Mrs. Channing Bancroft Whitaker was for several years clerk, and was succeeded by her daughter, Harriet B. Whitaker, and Bertha M. Sherburne is now, and has been for some time, clerk.

Rev. William Brown and Rev. Sarah A. Dixon were, for several years, vice-presidents.

The first entertainment was given January 14, 1891, when Misses Cora Littlehale, Blanche Woodward, Ethel Carpenter, Sadie Hunter, Ina Butterfield, Rev. William Brown, and Rev. C. M. Carpenter, with pupils from the Winslow school, participated.

The next entertainment was on February 11, 1891, when "The Country School" was presented with C. Whitaker, L. Curtis, D. A. Lawrence, J. B. Butterfield, A. A. Flint, F. A. Woodward, A. P. Hadley, C. Danforth, W. Blanchard, R. B. Sherburne, Mrs. W. Blanchard, Mrs. C. Whitaker, Mrs. Ellen F. Bennett, Mrs. A. A. Flint, Mrs. D. A. Lawrence, Mrs. R. B. Sherburne, Mrs. F. Woodward, Mrs. G. O. Perham, Mrs. J. Butterfield, and Miss Mary Bennett in the cast.

On December 28th, in the same year, a supper was given, prior to the annual meeting, for which the prices were fifteen cents for adults and five cents for children. It was served by the men.

At the town meeting in 1893, the ladies of the Association served a dinner for the voters.

At an entertainment on March 3, 1894, Harry and "Charlie" Littlehale made their debut in an orchestra which played at an entertainment.

The first fair was held on February 13 and 14, 1896, when there was an Historic and Antiquarian Exhibition, under the direction of J. Frank Bancroft.

On December 4, 1896 an orchestra, composed of Horace S. Bancroft, Charles Danforth, Harry L. Littlehale, C. P. Littlehale, Fred Blanchard, and Miss Belle Perham as pianist, added harmony to an entertainment.

On December 9, 1896, Channing Whitaker moved, and the motion was passed, that a committee be appointed to consider a new road, running through land of Jesse B. Butterfield and John P. Coburn from the River Road to the State Highway. The road was subsequently built at a cost of \$116.41, which was paid by the Association.

Hon. John J. Pickman was a speaker at the annual meeting in 1908, with H. T. Bailey of Scituate.

Dr. Lambert with Miss Marion Bennett were a committee to improve the Littlefield Library grounds. Louville Curtis gave the shrubs, and the present and beautiful environment of the building was by them created.

It was in 1909 that R. B. Sherburne and Fred Blanchard considered, with Selectman W. A. Sherburne and Otis Wright, the advisability of lighting the village streets with electricity. They were so lighted at the expense of the V. I. A.

The number of those who signed the constitution was 201, of whom 39 are deceased.

The first clean-up day was in 1893, when Dr. Fitzgerald, C. Whitaker, W. Blanchard, F. Shipley, A. P. Hadley, A. A. Flint, Wendell Blanchard, C. Whitaker, Jr., Harry and Charles Littlehale, and Bertram Hadley each gave personal service in the cleaning.

BUILDING NEWS.

William Blanchard.

In some respects conditions in Tyngsboro are peculiarly unfortunate. It grows in spots, miles apart. A large number of the residents, owning and occupying real estate, take little or no interest in public affairs, being largely occupied by personal matters outside the town of their adoption.

E. F. Davis having bought, of the Perham heirs, a tract of land adjacent to the Fred Brown place, near the New Hampshire line, is building, himself, a dwelling house, barn, etc., on the same.

The Farwell house, after being rescued from wreck and decay, and transformed into an attractive little residence, was unoccupied for some time through one of those seemingly unforeseen accidents to which we are all liable, and which we all sympathetically regret.

The Fay place, known to the older residents as the Col. "Tim" Butterfield's farm, after being thoroughly repaired and much improved, has remained unoccupied the whole season.

He who runs may see the extensive improvements made by D. J. Shea. His buildings and premises constitute an object lesson as to what may be done by a combination of means and good taste, thereby greatly enhancing the appearance of the village square.

Charles Allgrove is enjoying the convenient addition to his habitation.

The old Tyng, or Drake farm, having recently come into the possession and direction of Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Brown, is being conducted as a place of public rest and refreshment, under the name, Wannalancit Tavern. Cannot the tintinnabulations of the old bell, that used to summon the negro slaves to a digestion, waited upon by an appetite most vigorous, be so modulated, softened and sweetened that 'twould send out a call appealing, insinuating, hard to resist, by the multitude of passing tourists.

W. J. Collins is domiciled in a handsome new bungalow. Mr. Collins and family are among the most constant and appreciative patrons of our public library.

Shirley Clark, in building and occupying another bungalow in the same section, gives an additional impetus to the growing reluctance to mount ladders, later stairs, to seek a place for rest and sleep.

Not far away, Joe Riley, who has certainly lived in town long enough to be called one of Tyngsboro's boys, has built, himself, a cottage-home, and Mr. Dandley a dwelling, near the Bennett cranberry bog.

In the extreme easterly part of the town, in the vicinity of the "Lake Region," some twelve or fifteen shacks, camps, and bungalows have been built. The word "shack" is used advisedly as it appears to be an elastic designation, applicable to habitations of high and low degree. Some of the more pretentious ones are well equipped to endure the blasts of winter, notably that of Charles Perham, it having a good heating plant installed.

Peter Littlehale, having removed from his old, long-occupied home, now resides in the practically new house recently purchased from his son, Edwin P.

Charles E. Nelson, after a careful investigation of several locations, finally purchased of Louville Curtis what might be termed a corner lot, the river forming a broad highway on one side and the easterly approach to the bridge on the other. He will live in a handsome two-story structure with piazzas, sleeping porch and inside modern improvements. There is a fine view of the Merrimack River and down the east side, of the boulevard.

Nearly opposite the Nelson property, on maple-shaded Sherburne Avenue, Frank Cummings, one of Tyngsboro's sons, now of Lowell, has recently secured one of the R. B. Sherburne lots, with the intention of settling down in his native village after many years in the business world. A small convenient bungalow, with modern conveniences, at this date nearly completed, will be an addition to the growing east side colony.

Reuben B. Sherburne has put up an attractive utilitarian building, near the bridge entrance, on the east side; the northerly end being fitted and stocked as a public market, and the larger portion, with its broad piazzas, dining tables, etc., conveniently situated on the much-travelled boulevard, entertains an unexpectedly large number of patrons.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Annie R. Harlow.

The work began last year of widening and straightening the Dunstable Road is now completed to the Dunstable line.

The relocating and grading the road from the east end of the bridge to Hudson will not be completed this year.

Sherman H. Proctor has sold his house on the Dunstable Road to Mrs. Lizzie Moody who now occupies it.

Mr. Carl Richmond has bought of the Unitarian Parish three acres of land, adjoining his homestead, said land extending to the Nashua road.

Dr. Viles of Lowell, bought of J. B. and W. P. Butterfield a lot of land situated on Horseshoe Bend, and has built thereon a fine camp and garage, and also cleared a plot for a vegetable and flower garden.

Prof. Viles, a brother of the doctor, later bought a lot adjoining and he also has a camp and garage with plenty of land for a garden.

The old Lowell-Lawrence house, situated on the Nashua car line, between Gregoire's Corner and Johnson's Corner, owned and occupied by Albert Gregoire, was totally destroyed by fire in April, 1916. This place, at one time, was the home of Daniel A. Lawrence.

Mr. Raymond Sherburne, after two years as a law student at Harvard, has returned to Tyngsboro, residing at the present time with Mr. Granville G. Queen, Mrs. Sherburne's father. Mr. Sherburne is with J. G. Hill of Lowell.

Frank Bancroft is making improvements on his house by the addition of an ell and piazza to the main building.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR BEAUTY.

C. E. Wildman.

We people who live in Tyngsboro are fortunate in that we already have a town that is naturally beautiful. But that which Nature has made beautiful can be made all the more beautiful by the hand of man and, therefore, there is a chance for improvement. Any concrete suggestions as to how to beautify the town should come from one who is a landscape gardener; but it may be well to think of the places that ought to be beautified.

So I feel that there should be some beautification of the greens, one at the village-end of the bridge and the other at the triangular green, at the junction of the Dunstable and Nashua Roads. Just what needs to be done there, is not for me to say. I think that it might be well for the V. I. A. to consult a landscape gardener before anything is done, so that there might be no expensive experimentation.

At present, the box-shop curve is the most unsightly place in town and, perhaps, also the most conspicuous. Swinging around the curve one sees the large sign in the most conspicuous place in the village. At the end of the year this sign ought to be removed. This can be done with due regard to all parties concerned; but it certainly does need to be done in the interest of the beautification of the town. Place some flowers in the triangular green there, keep the lawn well mown, and it will be a far different corner. A green is always pretty if it is kept mown but if it is not, it looks rather seedy. Furthermore, a green always looks better when there is a touch of some other color in the form of flowers. Accordingly, there ought to be some flowers at the end of the bridge and it should be kept well mown.

There is nothing that so adds to the beauty of a place as the fact of well-kept individual homes and streets and roads. And so we ought to continue the program of having days when there is a general clean-up day. These ought to come at least twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. It is impossible to have too many of them.

The most crying convenience that is needed in town, at the present time, is some sort of a way for foot-passengers to get across the Tyngsboro Bridge.

If they will not give us a new bridge, let them, at least, give us a place for foot-passengers to walk on, by an extension on the side of the bridge.

We should, all of us, be interested in the cultivation of the thing that is beautiful because of its spiritual effect. A little girl, in a Chicago Social Settlement, walked up to a large calla lily, looked at it for a minute, then she looked at her dirty hands, and she thought of her dirty face and her stringy locks of hair. She blushed, turned away, and in a half hour she returned with clean face and hands, a clean white dress, and her hair carefully combed. She marched up to the lily and, looking up at the pure flower, said, "Now, I can look at you, beautiful lily." The conscious and unconscious effect of that which is beautiful should lead us to beautify the town in all possible ways.

GRANGE NOTES.

Francena L. Sherburne.

The past year has been a very pleasant and profitable one for Tyngsboro Grange. The meetings have been well attended and a healthy interest has been shown in its various activities.

At a meeting, early in the year, the project of having a district nurse in Tyngsboro was discussed. The first expense would be considerable and the matter of transportation would be something of a problem, but the suggestion was made that by uniting with Dunstable and North Chelmsford something might be accomplished.

A lecture by Dr. Simpson, agent of the State Board of Health, was given, under the auspices of the Grange, and was open to the public. His subject was "Insects and Disease," which proved very interesting and instructive.

A beautiful flag, presented to the Grange by Mrs. Chester Queen, was raised with appropriate ceremonies, July 9th.

A reception by the officers of the Grange to the school teachers, superintendent and other invited guests was one of the prettiest events of the season.

At the meeting of November 28th, the following officers were elected for 1917:

Master, C. Adelbert Bell; Overseer, Harold O. Bell; Lecturer, Lillian Snow; Steward, Grace Marshall; Assistant Steward, Ralph Sweeney; Chaplain, Philistia R. Flint; Treasurer, Otis L. Wright, Secretary, Norman R. Sherburne; Gate Keeper, May H. Collins; Ceres, Gertrude Bell; Pomona, Lillian Russon; Flora, Mabel J. Collier; Lady Assistant Steward, Jennie Holle.

TYNGSBORO BIRD CLUB.

During the year the Bird Club stimulated interest in birds, their feeding and their care, and accomplished not a little in their behalf. The pupils of the Winslow School were alert and active in their ministrations. They put up nesting boxes and feeding

stations in the Bird Sanctuary and about the school grounds, and kept the latter well supplied with suet and grain during the winter. Wesley Blanchard and Elmer Talbot were awarded prizes for feeding box building.

There were several bird walks, conducted by Mrs. A. M. Paxson and Mr. Fred B. Spaulding of Lowell, Mr. E. Davis of Leominster, and Mr. Oldys of Maryland. Mr. Winthrop Packard, treasurer of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, gave an illustrated lecture; and Mr. Charles Perham, of Tyngsboro, gave a concrete bird bath which was set up in the Bird Sanctuary.

Donations were received from Mr. William Blanchard and Mr. Chester Queen which covered the expense of the hall for Mr. Packard's lecture.

The meetings have been held in the Winslow schoolhouse, thanks to the privilege kindly accorded by the school committee.

The annual meeting was held on September 20, 1916, at which a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Paxson and Messrs. Spaulding, Packard, Davis, Oldys, Blanchard and Queen.

The following officers were chosen:—President, Edward B. Carney; Vice-President, Mrs. W. A. Sherburne; Treasurer, Ralph S. Harlow; Secretary, Mrs. Maude A. Queen.

Under the new government, a Junior Branch of the Club was organized, in the schoolhouse, on November 14th, and the following officers were chosen: President, Elmer Talbot; Vice-President, Susie Danforth; Secretary, Hazel Whitaker; Treasurer, Malcolm Parrish; Committee of Feeding Stations, Frank Cobleigh, Susie Danforth, Malcolm Parrish, Wendell Blanchard, Bernice Upton, Joseph Doyle; Committee on Bird Sanctuary, Priscilla Talbot, Carl Ford, Harriette Bancroft, Wesley Blanchard, Kirk Bancroft, and Clara Doyle.

LITTLEFIELD LIBRARY.

Jennie J. Bancroft.

Perhaps it would be of interest to the readers of the Annual to know what the library has been doing the past year.

There have been volumes added, a list of which will be printed in the next report of the town; the trustees have rescinded the vote whereby it was necessary for all books to be returned to the library by the 20th of February of each year. The experiment of allowing a practically unlimited number of books to each person is no longer an experiment, having proved its usefulness and become a permanency.

The close proximity of schoolhouse and library has made it possible for the library to become more useful in the school work, especially since the trustees have allowed the principal to take the eighth grade there for special reference work, one day in the week. A series of talks on how to use the library have been given by the librarian, at the suggestion of the Free

Public Library Commission, which has supplemented the principal's work. It is hoped this will make the pupils better prepared for the High School work, for it is said the educated person of today is not the one who memorizes the most but the one who knows where to find what is wanted when necessary.

KOBEMAH TENNIS CLUB.

Bernice R. Sherburne.

The annual meeting of the Kobemah Tennis Club was held April 21, 1916, and the following officers were chosen:

President, Jennie J. Bancroft; Vice-President, Norman R. Sherburne; Secretary and Treasurer, Bernice R. Sherburne; Court Committee, Valmos Stone, Ralph Harlow, Charles Coburn; Tournament Committee, Norman Sherburne, Clarence Woodward, Ruth McLoon, Louise Sherburne.

The members, forty-five in number, have shown much interest in the game; and their enthusiasm kept the court a busy place during the summer.

Under the management of Mr. Sherburne a tournament was played with the Beacon Club of Lowell, and another with Westford players. At both times the local players were a credit to the club and carried off their share of the honors.

THE MEN'S CLUB.

The Men's Club began its second year last October, after an encouraging beginning. The officers for the year are: President, H. E. Symonds; Vice-President, F. G. W. McKittrick; Secretary and Treasurer, Harry L. Littlehale; Executive Committee, Rev. Frank R. Gale and Wallace P. Butterfield.

The speakers for this year have been Chief of Police Redmond Welch of Lowell, Chief Yeoman Tucker, U. S. N., and Dr. J. J. Devine. These talks are, perhaps, all the more enjoyable because they are given when the cigars are lighted after a most appetizing supper.

BASEBALL.

There was no organized baseball club in town this year. George C. Kennedy, with characteristic energy, got the players together, with an out-of-town battery, and they played several games with success. Mr. Kennedy then withdrew from the management and was succeeded by Harold Pierce, and the remainder of the season was attended with gratifying success.

Next year there ought to be a team substantially organized to maintain the honor of the town upon the diamond field.



THE BRIDGE.

The bridge we still have with us; and that without amendment or alteration. As the picture shows, it is an airy, delicate structure, narrow and without sidewalks, just such a bridge as was suitable for the ox carts, doctors' buggies and farmers' carryalls in the days when it was built, but most unsuited to the demands of these awakened and stirring modern times.

It was in 1908 that a petition was presented to the County Commission, asking that a sidewalk be built; but nothing came of the petition.

The matter lay fallow until 1915, when Dr. Lambert and others presented a petition to the legislature, asking that repairs or a reconstructed bridge be authorized. That was given leave to withdraw. Not to be shaken from their purpose, the same petitioners, in the spring of 1916, presented another petition, asking that the care of the bridge be transferred to the State Highway Commission. That petition was reported upon adversely; but Representative A. W. Colburn, of Dracut, got the committee to adopt a resolution, directing the County Commission to investigate and prepare plans for repairs, or for a new bridge.

A hearing upon this resolve was held, July 2, 1916, which was attended by many people interested

(Continued on page 9.)

V. I. A. ANNUAL

Published each year by the TYNGSBORO VILLAGE
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOL. XXII

DECEMBER, 1916

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE II

The objects of this Association shall be to improve, ornament and light the streets and public grounds of Tyngsboro, by planting and cultivating trees, cleaning and repairing sidewalks and gutters, erecting, caring for, and lighting street lamps, and doing such other acts as shall tend to beautify, improve and light said streets and grounds.

The Executive Committee has to explain that the reduced number of pages in this number of the V. I. A. Annual, was rendered necessary by the increased cost of material for its issuance. The same number will be issued as was published last year; and the Committee is convinced that the readers will confer their patronage upon those who have favored it with their advertising.

EDITORIAL.

A YEAR OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

The year 1916 is on the threshold of the Past. As it leaves, the year 1917 will step into its place with eager and youthful alertness. Time alone will reveal the sincerity of its eagerness and the abiding benefits of its alertness.

Nineteen hundred and sixteen has been a year of peace and a year of prosperity in this land of ours; a year of peace and prosperity in our river town of Tyngsboro. We have enjoyed the peace, and we have benefitted by the prosperity.

There has been a serious, yet harmless, strife in the nation, the presidential strife. Hard things were said upon both sides; but the people have spoken, and their voice is decisive. President Wilson has been chosen again to direct the political and economic destinies of our country. While there were disappointment and gratification, the people as a whole will be content to accept the ultimatum, and unite in an endeavor for the furtherance of that peace which will uphold our common interests and preserve our national dignity.

That is one of the fine things about our citizenship; whatever may be the excitement, whatever the contention, when the record of the polls is proclaimed, all men are once more akin, and quite forget the things said in the heat of political controversy.

Tyngsboro is a small unit in the galaxy which forms the nation; but its smallness did not render it remiss in its duty to the nation. While the majority vote of the town was on the losing side in the choice of president it was on the winning side in the choice of other public officials.

Barring politics we may live our allotted time during the coming year, and in the still more future years, thinking less of our personal whims and fancies, and doing more to forward the interests of the town, with a firm resolution to enhance what Nature has so bountifully done for Tyngsboro, and make it a beautiful place of abode for men.

A GREAT GETTING-TOGETHER.

That was a great getting-together at the banquet of the Village Improvement Association. Everyone seemed to be animated by good feeling and a purpose to make others feel as good as they did themselves. That purpose was fulfilled by a universal measure of happiness, and with a friendliness which was marked by sincerity.

Perhaps the bounteous feast was responsible for that; it certainly was a most satisfying foundation for the interest, and above all, for the laughter which made the banquet so distinguished in a succession of distinguished gatherings.

When you get down to it, there was no "perhaps" about it; for Hon. John Jacob Rogers was a prime factor in all that made the gathering notable. He received the hearty greeting which merit invites; the greeting of those who were privileged to vote for him, and the greeting of those who would have voted for him had they enjoyed the privilege of the suffrage.

Mr. Rogers responded to that welcome with an unassumed grace and became one with the expectant assemblage. His address was rather an informal chat, punctured with the essence of good humor, and entirely free from personal or partisan bias. He found good in all men and made his hearers realize and applaud the good he found.

That is one faculty with which Mr. Rogers is endowed, the faculty of being a man to men. He is devoid of official hauteur; yet there is that in his personality which inspires respect, a respect due to the high position he occupies as the representative of this district in the councils of the nation.

Then, too, the singers received the applause their finished and tuneful harmonies encouraged, and graciously volunteered repetitions as complete and acceptable as were their official numbers.

When the young ladies and the young men, who performed the arduous duties of serving the delighted feasters, are considered, words almost fail to express the gratitude of those they so cheerfully served.

The banquet was the most largely attended in the history of the V. I. A., and was a happy result of getting-together; and to get-together is one of the specific aims of the association.

GETTING-TOGETHER IN RELIGION.

Speaking of getting-together, there was a specially enlightening example, when the congregations of the Unitarian and of the Evangelical churches united in the parish church on November 26th, in worship to the Creator. When you consider that Rev. Mr. Gale offered a prayer which was far from being tempestuous, and that Rev. Mr. Wildman preached a sermon as pacific as was ever delivered by a mild-mannered minister, you have the antithesis of names with a most reassuring result.

There are many ways of accomplishing good; and the accomplishment will be rendered more complete if it be exercised in a unity of purpose and a forbearance in manner.

A HESITANCY IN GETTING-TOGETHER.

While the townspeople are heartily in accord in getting-together, there seems to be a hesitancy about the town officials getting-together. For example: There was the grading of the grounds of the Littlefield library and the Winslow schoolhouse. No conclusion was reached with either the selectmen or the members of the school board; so that the library trustees were fain to grade the grounds upon their own responsibility.

The grounds of the Winslow schoolhouse were left ungraded; but that improvement was evidently authorized when an appropriation of \$100.00 was made at the last town meeting.

The executive committee of the Village Improvement Association was prepared to lay edgestones and put the sidewalk in safe and passable condition, but the school board could not seem to arrive at any decision, and finally made the proffer of the \$100.00 to the V. I. A. committee to expend it in making the improvement.

But that committee was without official authority to expend the money so appropriated, and thus the grounds were left ungraded, a menace to pupils that attend school.

The executive committee of the V. I. A. has gone ahead and laid the edgestones, three feet back from the present line, because of a notice they received, that the state highway is to be widened to that extent. The snows will melt and rut the sidewalk; so that the wisdom of getting-together for the common good, and particularly for the good of the children, will receive an emphatic affirmation.

THE BRIDGE.

(Continued from page 7.)

in the matter, including Levi S. Gould, chairman of the County Commission, President Robert F. Marden, of the Lowell Board of Trade, C. H. McIntire, Esq., counsel for Tyngsboro, W. D. Sohler, chairman of the State Highway Commission, James H. Devlin, Esq., counsel for the City of Boston, Dr. Lambert and others.

There was a very general consensus of opinion that a new bridge was necessary, but both the County Commission and the State Highway Commission avoided responsibility for the necessity, while counsel for the City of Boston argued that Boston did not desire to be taxed for a bridge so remote from its interests.

The resolve was finally passed by the legislature, with an appropriation of \$2,000.00 for expenses, and a report from the County Commission is anticipated next month.

Nothing is known of what the report will be; but since soundings have been made of the river bottom, there may be a suggestion of a new bridge. There is also the idea, based entirely upon rumor, that a four-foot sidewalk built on the outside of the bridge, may be advised. Such advice would simply make a very bad matter, worse.

While the report is in abeyance it will be brought to the minds of the many thousands, who cross that bridge in automobiles, how utterly inadequate it is for the pressure of such tremendous traffic; and townsfolk, who have occasion to cross the structure, on foot, will continue to do so with fear in their hearts.

Tyngsboro bridge has outlasted its purpose as a safe course for foot or vehicular travel; and to the most ordinary individual it seems that as it connects two State Highways, it should be under the supervision of the State Highway Commission.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

November 10, 1916.

The annual banquet and business meeting of the V. I. A. was attended by an unusually large number of people. The ladies of the executive committee deserve much credit for the success of the affair.

President George Robeson called the meeting to order. Grace was said by Rev. C. E. Wildman. The reports of the clerk, executive committee, treasurer, corresponding secretary, and auditor were read and accepted.

The nominating committee—Mr. Jesse B. Butterfield, Miss Susan E. Morse, and Mr. Charles P. Littlehale made the following nominations:

President, Mr. Homer A. Noble; vice-president, Mr. Reuben B. Sherburne; second vice-president, Mr. Harry L. Littlehale; clerk, Miss Bertha M. Sherburne; corresponding secretary, Miss Grace Whitaker; treasurer, Mr. Ralph S. Harlow; auditor, Mr. Wallace P. Butterfield; executive committee for two years, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond W. Sherburne; executive committee for three years, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Snow.

All of the candidates were elected.

A very enjoyable feature of the entertainment was a double quartet, consisting of Mrs. Winnifred Flagg Symonds, Miss Ethel Perkins, Mrs. Fred Wiggin, Mrs. Harry L. Littlehale, Mr. Charles P. Littlehale, Mr. Norman R. Sherburne, Mr. Harry L. Littlehale and Mr. Ralph S. Harlow. The singing was much appreciated.

The address of the evening was given by Hon. John Jacob Rogers of Lowell. Mr. Rogers spoke for the most part in a humorous vein, although he became serious for a short time and presented a very graphic outline of the need of National defense.

The meeting dissolved.

BERTHA M. SHERBURNE,
Clerk.

OFFICERS OF FIRST PARISH.

Clerk: Jennie J. Baneroft.
Treasurer: Wallace P. Butterfield.
Parish Committee: Ophelia S. Brown, Chester F. K. Bancroft, Henry G. Manville.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

November, 1916.

1915

Nov. 12—Balance on Hand.....	\$142.84
“ 12—From V. I. A. Banquet.....	14.08
“ 12—From Ladies' Social Circle.....	.38

1916

Feb.—From Fair:

Admissions	\$ 74.86
Supper	60.81
Domestic Table	10.91
Fancy Table	66.55
Farmers' Table	6.50
Children's Table	21.30
Ice Cream Table.....	27.67
Bulb Table	17.28
Candy Table	26.92
Plate Table	18.28
Gift	1.00

\$332.08

Expenditures for Fair..... 125.30

Net Proceeds from Fair.....	206.78
Received from V. I. A. Annual.....	158.00
Received from Gardner Pearson.....	10.00
Received for Dues.....	62.00

\$594.08

Expended—Incidentals 150.05

Balance \$444.03

RALPH S. HARLOW.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The V. I. A. Annual, managed by the men on the committee, was very successful mostly through the efforts of Nelson McLoon who hustled in a good bit of advertising, and we all know that is what we depend on for the cash. The committee were very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. James Bayles as editor for the paper this year, and Bertrand McKittrick is the young man to solicit "ads." so this paper is sure of success.

The Annual Fair was a big success last year as the treasurer's report will tell you. This was managed by the ladies on the committee.

Your committee got in touch with various representatives and senators in regard to the bill for a change at the Tyngsboro Bridge.

There has been one oil lamp placed at Mr. McCarthy's, near Wood's Corner.

The greens have had their usual attention the past season.

The usual spring clean-up day was much appreciated. Your committee plans to have another clean-up day soon and asks every one to co-operate with them in making this village a little better place to live.

Your committee has planned to set about 300 feet of curbing along the State Road, in front of the schoolhouse grounds, and from Mr. Daniel Shea's to the cement bridge. This latter job is about completed. The other job has been quite a problem. The State engineers have kept the committee waiting all summer for the proper grade. This they have promised soon, and the work will go on. An effort was made to join with the school committee and grade or improve the school grounds, but it seems the school committee could not agree what should be done, so nothing was done.

Your committee has planned to buy, at least, one rubbish barrel to be placed near the end of the car line.

The committee were very much disappointed to receive the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Richmond, about June 1st, caused by Mr. Richmond's business taking him so much out of town and state.

HOMER A. NOBLE,
Chairman.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Marriages, Births and Deaths, in Tyngsboro, 1916.

MARRIAGES.

April 12—James F. Nolan.	Eva Eglin.
April 12—Thomas Franklin Brown.	Mildred Spofford Curtis.
June 27—Charles Warren Barton.	Minnie Etta Russon.
Sept. 4—Elzier Dumont.	Josephine Pelletier.
Sept. 17—Michael M. Bakaian.	Vina Huard.
Oct. 18—Fred Carlton Hall.	A. Alice Mark.
Oct. 24—John Anderson Dow.	Florence Marion Ford.
Nov. 30—Charles L. Haines.	Bernice L. Fuller.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 13—Benjamin S. Blaine.	Benj. and Ruth.
Jan. 19—Clifford Elmer Fuller.	Elmer and Eva.
Feb. 2—Robert George Duff.	George and Bertha.
Mar. 6—	Washburn. George and Katherine.
Mar. 23—Marie Elsie Brown.	Wm. and Laura.
Mar. 30—Phyllis Currier.	Bertrand and Ella.
April 20—Shirley Clayton Wyman.	Frank and Bessie.
May 2—	Lord. Armozord and Josephine.
June 4—Francis Garland O'Hare.	Michael and Agnes.
June 21—Bernice Anna Young.	Frank and Mame.
July 18—Pauline Zita Peabody.	Fred and Greta.
Aug. 16—John Kenneth Halloran.	John and Mary.
Sept. 27—	Riley. Joseph and Annie.
Oct. 10—Joseph Albert Allard.	John and Gertrude.
Nov. 14—Jessemine Nelson Allgrove.	Charles and Tyra.

DEATHS.

		Yrs.	Mos.	Dys.
Jan. 3—	Noah P. Shipley.....	76	11	
Mar. 5—	James Danforth.....	69		
May 30—	Henry E. Vaughn.....	79	9	5
June 27—	Lucy E. Gotham.....	6	6	9
July 2—	George W. Lees.....	30	8	15
July 16—	Sarah E. Bryant.....	85	1	
Aug. 18—	Clayton F. Currier.....	4	8	
Aug. 20—	Dorilda Dion.....	21		
Aug. 22—	Exhandias Dupont.....	72	2	22
Sept. 5—	Ellan G. Sheeley.....	56		
Sept. 14—	Sarah W. Hopkins.....	71	6	2
Sept. 14—	James Coventry.....	78		
Oct. 10—	Christopher C. Newman.....	32	1	26
Oct. 18—	Charles J. McCarthy.....			2
Nov. 14—	Enid Clarke.....	2	1	4

 DIRECTORY.

Town Officers.

Town Clerk—	Chas. P. Littlehale.
Town Treasurer—	Wallace P. Butterfield.
Selectmen,	{ Otis L. Wright.
Assessors and	{ Homer A. Noble.
Overseers of Poor	{ Fred L. Snow.
Auditor—	Norman R. Sherburne.
Tax Collector—	Claude A. Bell.
Road	{ J. Granville Queen.
Commissioners	{ Benjamin B. Lawrence.
	{ Leon B. Perham.
Constables	{ Herbert F. Shipley.
	{ Claude A. Bell.
	{ Bertrand R. Currier, Chairman.
	{ Wallace P. Butterfield, Secretary.
	{ Frank G. McKittrick.
School	{ Levi Blanchard.
Committee	{ Daniel J. Shea.
	{ Warren A. Sherburne.
	{ Fred D. Lambert, Chairman.
Trustees	{ Chas. P. Littlehale, Secretary.
of	{ Wm. E. Barry.
Littlefield	{ Harry L. Littlehale.
Library	{ Ellen L. Perham.
	{ Maude A. Queen.
Tree Warden—	Chas. J. Allgrove.

 THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Pastor: Rev. Clyde E. Wildman.
 Officers: Trustees, E. S. L. Swallow, J. J. Robeson and H. H. Upton.
 Prudential Committee: J. J. Robeson, C. S. Nelson, F. K. Sinclair, Mrs. Murray Parrish and Mrs. A. R. Harlow.
 Treasurer: C. S. Nelson.
 Clerk: Mrs. Ethel Braddon.
 Deacons: E. S. L. Swallow, J. J. Robeson and H. H. Upton.
 Deaconess: Mrs. Sarah E. Swallow.
 Registrar: Mrs. C. S. Nelson.
 Auditor: Miss Agnes Parrish.

Sunday School: Superintendent, A. R. Harlow; Secretary and Treasurer, George Robeson; Home Department Sunday School Superintendent, A. R. Harlow; Superintendent Cradle Roll, Mrs. James Brown.

The Ladies' Social Circle: President, Mrs. Murray Parrish; Vice-President, Mrs. Chas. S. Nelson; Secretary, Mrs. Frank McKitterick; Treasurer, Mrs. Alice I. Sinclair; Directresses, Mrs. Frank Wilkins, Miss Ida Ekstrom, Mrs. Maxfield and Mrs. Kirk Bancroft.

Flower Committee: Mrs. J. J. Robeson and Mrs. Chas. Allgrove.

Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor: President, Grace Whitaker; Vice-President, Nelson McLoon; Recording Secretary, Martha Worcester; Corresponding Secretary, Grace Whitaker; Treasurer, Ralph S. Harlow.

Junior Christian Endeavor: Superintendent, Grace Whitaker; President, Mildred Shea; Vice-President, Anna Dixon; Secretary, Mildred Shea; Treasurer, Malcolm Parish.

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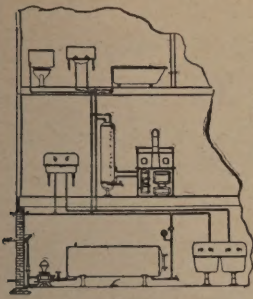
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